



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Region Four
4600 Giant Springs Road
PO Box 6610
Great Falls MT 59406

Environmental Quality Council
Mt Dept of Environmental Quality
Montana Department of Natural Resources
Dept. of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks
Directors Office
Tom Reilly
Wildlife Division
Lands Section
Design & Construction
Legal Unit
Regions 1-7
State Historic Preservation Office
Montana State Library
Mt Environmental Information Center
Mt Audubon Council
Montana Wildlife Federation
Mt State Parks Association
Mt State Parks Foundation
Mr George Ochenski
Fishing Outfitters Association of Montana
Montana Outfitters and Guides Association
Montana River Action Network
Fergus County Commissioners
Sen John Hertel
Rep Larry Grinde
Rep Dick Knox
Rep Bob Haney
Mr Joe Stilson
Mr Pete Anderson
Mr Bob Stone
Mr Craig Fliente - Central Montana Conservation Assn
Mr Jim Barnum
Mr Rich Johnson
Mr Mike Getman
Mr Karl Geis
Pleasant Forever
DNRC - Northeast Land Office
Central Montana Rail Inc
Great Falls Tribune
Lewistown News Argus

August 3, 1998

Dear Interested Parties,

The enclosed Environmental Assessment has been prepared for a proposed parking lot and toilet at **Hruska Fishing Access** Site near Lewistown, Montana. The scope of the proposed project has been determined to be sufficient to initiate the HB495(Section 23-1-110,MCA) process. The Montana Environmental Policy Act and HB495 considerations are included in the following document.

We would like your consideration and any comments you may have on this proposal. Questions and comments will be accepted until 5:00 pm, September 4, 1998. A public meeting will be held at the Natural Resource and Conservation Service Office, 211 McKinley Street, Lewistown, Montana on Wednesday September 2, 1998 at 6:00 pm. Please direct all questions and comments to Doug Habermann, POB 6610, Great Falls MT 59601, (406)454-5857.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely

Mike Aderhold

Mike Aderhold
Regional Supervisor

Fergus

MEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of Proposed State Action

Vault toilet and parking at Hruska Fishing Access Site.

2. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action

DFWP has authority to provide development for public recreation on Department lands. 23-2-101 MCA.

3. Name of Project

Hruska FAS parking and toilet.

4. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency)

Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Region Four, P.O. Box 6610, Great Falls, MT. 59406. (406) 454-5840

5. If Applicable:

Estimated Construction/Commencement Date 10,1998

Estimated Completion Date 11,1998

Current Status of Project Design (% complete) 85%

6. Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township)

T16N,R17E,S8 Fergus County

See attached map and site design.

7. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:

(a) Developed:

residential 0 acres

industrial 0 acres

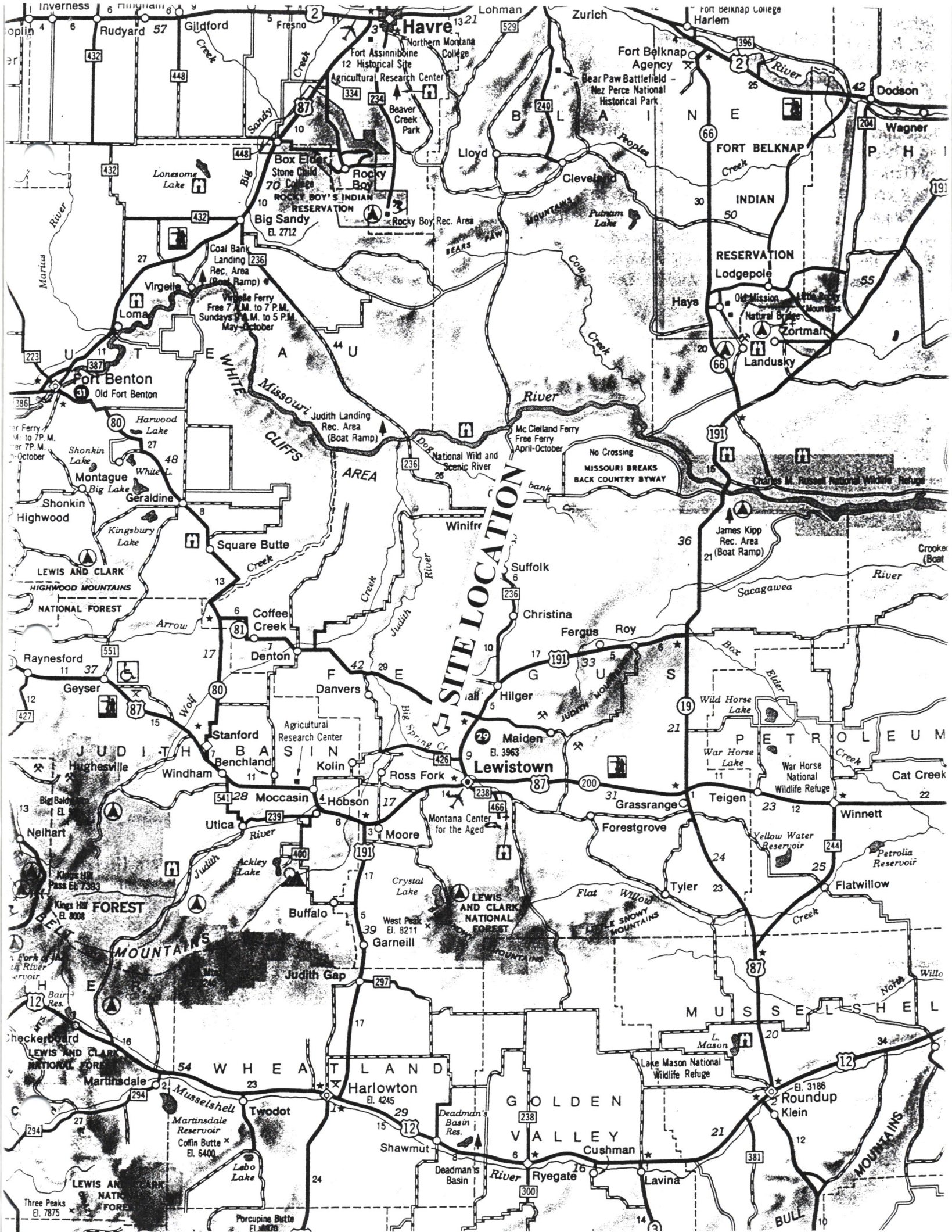
Recreation 1 acres

© Wetlands/Riparian

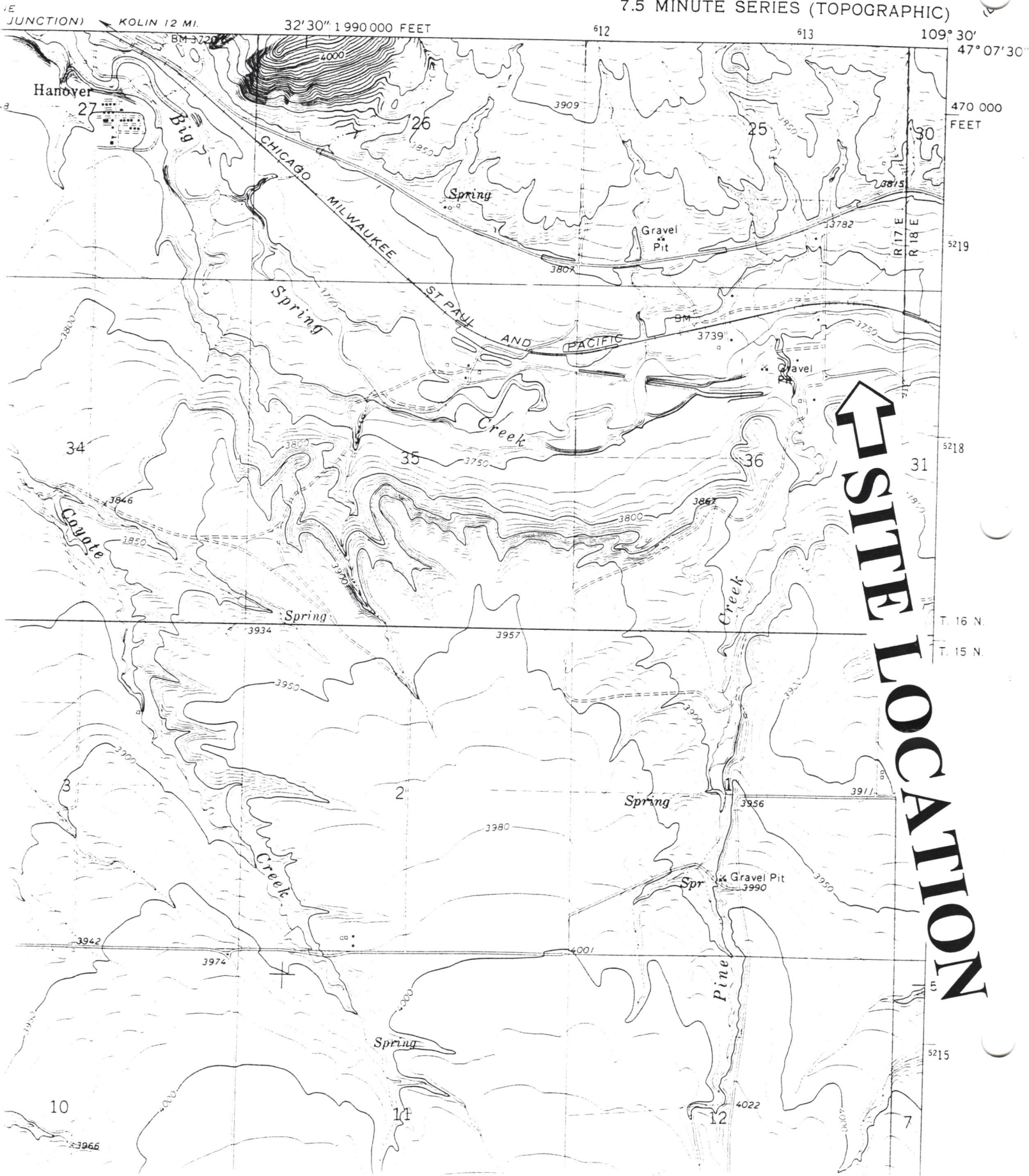
Areas . . 0 acres

(b) Open Space /

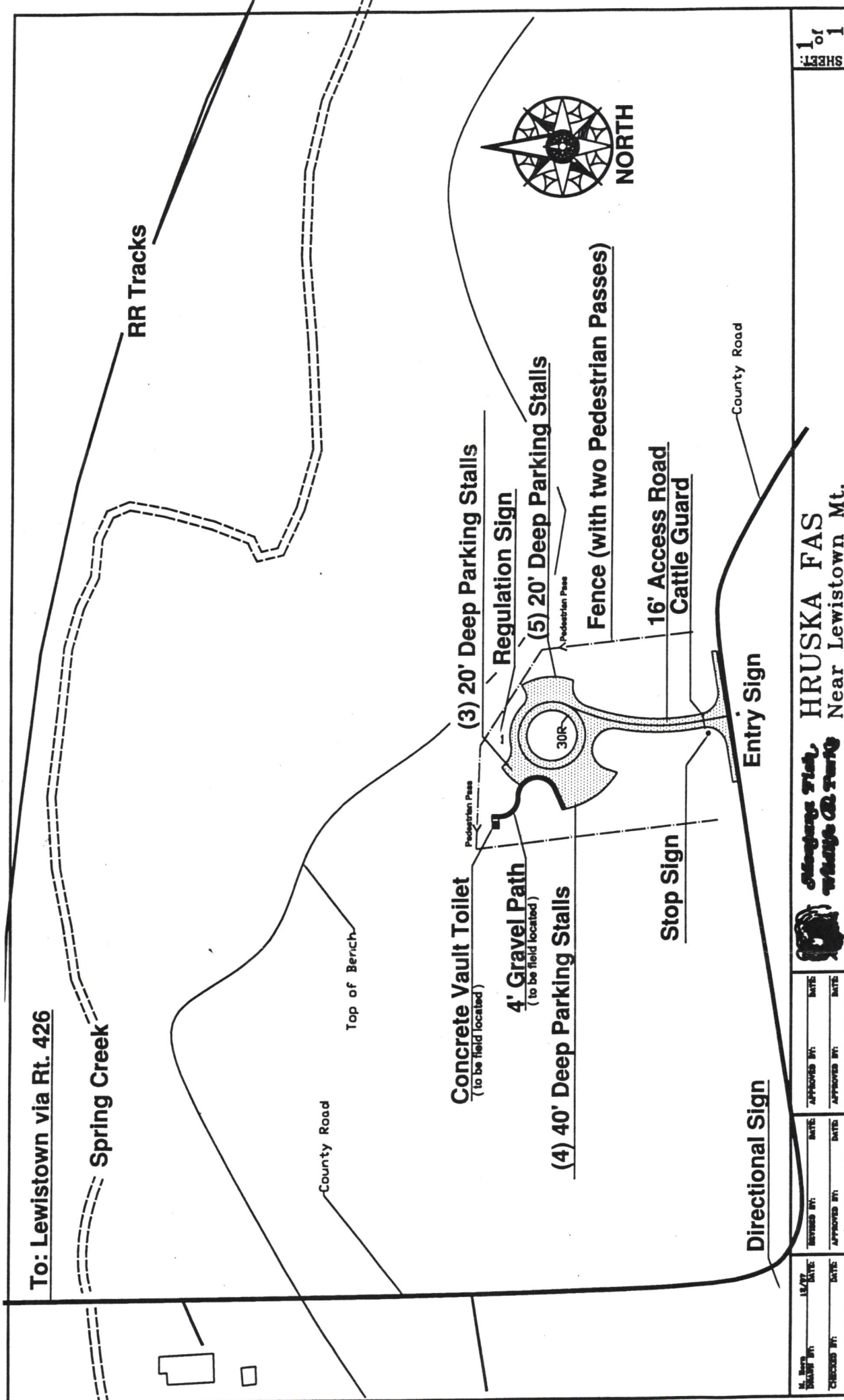
Woodlands /



GLENGARRY QUADRANGLE
MONTANA-FERGUS CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



↑ SITE LOCATION



To: Lewistown via Rt. 426

Spring Creek

RR Tracks

County Road

Top of Berch

Concrete Vault Toilet
(to be field located)

4' Gravel Path
(to be field located)

(4) 40' Deep Parking Stalls

(3) 20' Deep Parking Stalls

Regulation Sign

(5) 20' Deep Parking Stalls

Fence (with two Pedestrian Passes)

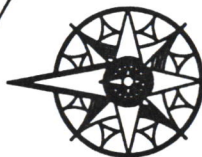
16' Access Road
Cattle Guard

Stop Sign

Entry Sign

Directional Sign

County Road



NORTH

HRUSKA FAS
Near Lewistown Mt.

Shirley Fish
Whispering Willows



DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE
CHECKED BY	APPROVED BY	CHECKED BY	APPROVED BY	CHECKED BY	APPROVED BY

(d) Floodplain . . 0 acres

(e) Productive:
irrigated cropland
.....0
acres
dry cropland . 0 acres
forestry . . . 0 acres
rangeland . . 1 acres
other 0 acres

8. **Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action or Project including the Benefits and Purpose of the Proposed Action.**

This project is intended to provide basic, simple facilities for use of this site by sportsmen and other recreationists. It will furnish a vault toilet, regulation sign and parking for 12 vehicles. This site is on Big Spring Creek downstream from Lewistown, Montana.

The developed area will be fenced to manage vehicle access. Walk through stiles will be provided to allow fishermen easy access through the fence. A cattle guard will be installed on the sixteen foot wide access road to manage livestock.

9. **HB495 Considerations.**

A) *Desires of the public.* The public has generally expressed their desire for minimal facility development at Fishing Access Sites. The Great Falls Regional office has received requests from sportsmen on where this site is and how to access it. Increasing number of vehicles parked at the site demonstrates that use is increasing and the need for facilities to protect the soils and safely handle human waste.

B) *Site capacity for development.* The proposed development would occupy less than 2 acres of this 45 acre site. The development is away from riparian areas on an elevated bench. The level of development is low and simple.

C) *Environmental impacts.* As shown in the checklist portion of this document, no significant environmental impacts are anticipated as a result of this project.

D) *Maintenance needs.* Basic maintenance of this site is already being done by FWP personnel. The project will increase the need slightly.

E) *Protection of natural, cultural and historic features.* The project is intended to protect the site's natural features.

F) *Tourism impacts.* We have requested the Montana Department of Commerce review potential tourism impacts of this project. It is anticipated that this development will have a positive impact on visitor's experiences in this region.

G) *This project as part of the Statewide FAS System.* This level of development is consistent with remote, moderately used Fishing Access Sites in Montana.

10. Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.

None.

11. List of Agencies Consulted During Preparation of the EA:

FWP Fisheries, Wildlife
Montana State Historic Preservation Office
Montana Department of Commerce

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

	MAJOR	MODERATE	MINOR	NONE	UNKNOWN	COMMENTS ON ATTACHED PAGES
1. Terrestrial & aquatic life and habitats				X		
2. Water quality, quantity & distribution				X		
3. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				X		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality				X		
5. Aesthetics				X		
6. Air quality			X			
7. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
8. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
9. Historical & archaeological sites				X		

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on the Natural Environment:

#6. Air quality will be minimally affected during construction.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

	MAJOR	MODERATE	MINOR	NONE	UNKNOWN	COMMENTS ON ATTACHED PAGES
1. Social structures & mores				X		
2. Cultural uniqueness & diversity				X		
3. Local & state tax base & tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural or industrial production				X		
5. Human health				X		
6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income				X		
7. Access to & quality of recreational & wilderness activities		X				
8. Quantity & distribution of employment				X		
9. Distribution & density of population & housing				X		
10. Demands for government services			X			
11. Industrial & commercial activity				X		
12. Demands for energy				X		
13. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals				X		
14. Transportation networks & traffic flows				X		

15. Site specific modification system wide				X		
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Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Human Environment:

#7. This project will have a positive effect on access to Spring Creek in this area. Although the public has been allowed to get to Spring Creek across Montana Department of Transportation land on the north side of the bridge at this area, it is currently leased to a private individual and public access is not assured into the future. This development will provide facilities away from the immediate riparian area, allowing appropriate and easy access and facilities for moderate fishing use.

#10. The need for additional caretaker services at this site will increase slightly. This site is already visited by FWP personnel and so the main increase will result from latrine maintenance.

2. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives.

No Action.

This site was acquired in 1972 and has had very little development since. Although some local use has occurred in the past, increased numbers of fishermen, bird-hunters and other types of recreationists have discovered and are using this site. Uncontrolled access allows the spread of weeds, soil erosion and promotes inappropriate activities.

Lesser Degree of Development.

The project as proposed is considered the minimal development for this type of site and the level of use it is already receiving.

Project as proposed.

The Department's preferred alternative.

3. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:

None

4. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:

An EIS is not required.

With no anticipated significant impacts to the environment or the public an EA is the appropriate level of analysis.

5. Public involvement.

A thirty day public comment period will begin on August 3, 1998. A public meeting is scheduled for September 2, 1998 in Lewistown, Montana and all comments will be addressed in the final version of this EA.

6. Duration of comment period if any:

30 days from announcement .

7. Name, title, address and phone number of the Person(s)

Responsible for Preparing the EA:

Douglas Habermann, Parks Operations Supervisor, POB 6610, Great Falls Montana 59406. (406)454-5857.



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Doug Haberman
R-4

Design and Construction Bureau
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, Montana 59620-0701

December 10, 1997

Mr. Paul Putz
State Historical Preservation Office
1410 8th Avenue
Helena, Montana 59620

RE: Misc. Sites

Dear Paul:

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks is proposing various projects for summer of 1998, and would like review and comment of these proposed projects.

Forest Grove FAS, T-15N, R-25W, Sec.-9, Mineral County.

This proposed project would include upgrading the existing boat ramp, upgrading the existing vault toilet, fencing and installing parking barriers. This site was surveyed for cultural resources in 1977. No cultural material was found, thus this proposed action has a low likelihood of impacting any known cultural resources. (File# 355.1)

Bell Crossing FAS, T-8N, R-20W, Sec.-17, Ravalli County.

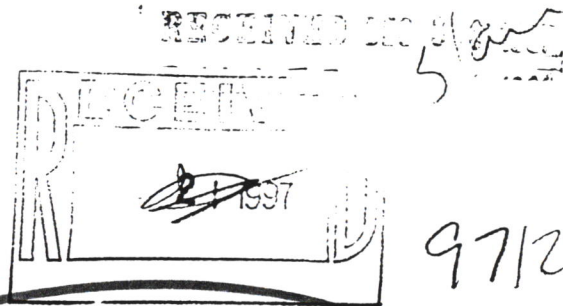
This proposed project would include improving the existing parking area, upgrading the existing road system, relocating the cul-de-sac, installing a new vault toilet. This site was surveyed for cultural resources in 1979, "No evidence of prehistoric activity was detected. It is not likely that the river gravels contain preserved cultural deposits", due to the entire site being located within the floodplain, (File# 60.1)

Hruska FAS, T-16N, R-17E, Sec.-36, Fergus County.

This proposed project would include development of amenities associated with a Department fishing access site, including a new road, parking and a vault toilet. This site was surveyed for cultural resources in 1993. Site 24FR411, which is adjacent to the property in question, will not be impacted by our proposed development. No other cultural resources were identified within the boundaries of the project area. Thus, there is a low likelihood of impacting cultural resources. (File# 462.A.1)

Big Pine FAS, T-14N, R-24W, Sec.-36, Mineral County.

This proposed project would include improving the existing road system with fresh gravel and



97/2/210.
FWP

